Dr. Desmond S. Potopsingh
Kingston Psychiatric Hospital
Ontario Hospital
Kingston, Ontario, Canada

7627 Old Receiver Road
Frederick, Md. 21701
9/19/89

Dear Dr. Potopsingh,

I am an old friend of your patient or former patient, he is unclear on which, Edward H. Williams. I know him as a good and very bright person and I have known him as what I regard as a very sick person. I write you with his encouragement even though he told me that he now is seen by Dr. Bert Conn, who he says is away on vacation. It was yesterday, in one of his many recent phone calls, that he encouraged me to write you and told me how. If in his present state of mind he misinformed me about your relationship, I would appreciate your forwarding this letter to Dr. Conn or any appropriate psychiatrist who sees him.

I do not know whether I can be of any help but if I can I want to be.

As I have told Ed repeatedly in recent months, he makes factually incorrect statements as unquestioned fact, confabulates, and hallucinates. I have repeatedly, in writing and conversations, urged him to cast out of his mind and current interests, all matters relating to the political assassinations in the United States and the many other conspiracy theories he repeats and I believe also invents. He says he agrees and will and then doesn't. By way of background, I am probably the most authoritative expert on the assassinations of President Kennedy and Dr. King and, unlike others, I am not a conspiracy theorist. My work is a rather large study of how the basic institutions of our society worked in those times of great stress and since then.

Several years ago, long after he resided in Canada, Ed appeared here without prior announcement, phoned me from his motel, seemed, as he often has recently, entirely rational, and we met the next morning. I was aghast at his appearance. He appeared to be in fine physical health but was so obviously ill emotionally he looked it. We spent some time together and none of what he said was rational. I was so concerned that when he was short in his motel bill when he left I refused to advance him the balance in the hope that would lead to his getting immediate treatment. It didn't. When I learned that the motel had let him go owing a balance I asked the police to pick him up out of fear that he might do harm to himself or others. They had a basis because he was hitchhiking but they did not locate him.

One of my concerns and an area in which I may be able to be helpful to his doctors is in being able to distinguish fact from fancy in what he says when he appears to be rational and isn't. Another may be in what he has told and written me. I have kept all he sent me and some of it shocked me and frightened me because I thought it reflected his state of mind.

I do not know whether or to what extent he is communicating with others but if he is telling others what he is telling me he may well be harming the reputations of innocent people. No matter how reasonable he may sound, he is not in contact with reality.

If I can be of any help, please let me know or ask what you'd like to ask. I am 76, in impaired health and begin each day with a program of walking therapy from which I am usually home by 9:30 a.m. Most days I don't leave and when I do it is not for long and I am never out of the Frederick area except for the few out-of-town medical appointments I have. If you want to phone, it is 301/473-8186.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg

Harold Weisberg